

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 07339 071433Z
ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GH
SUBJ: COURT REFUSES HABEAS CORPUS FOR ACHEAMPONG AS SMC ANNOUNCES
ADDITIONAL PLANS

REF: ACCRA 7162

1. AS PREDICTED IN REFTTEL THE ACCRA HIGH COURT HAS REFUSED AN APPLICATION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE CASE OF FORMER HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG. ALTHOUGH IT REFUSED THE APPLICATION FOR A WRIT, THE COURT DID ORDER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PROCUDE TO THE COURT BY SEPTEMBER 19, A WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION FOR DETENTION OF GENERAL ACHEAMPONG. DURING THE HEARING THE PRESIDENT OF THE GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE ASSOCIATION INTENDS TO APPEAR AS AMICUS CURIAE TO ASSIST ACHEAMPONG'S COUNSEL WHEN THE HEARING RECONVENES ON SEPTEMBER 19.

2. IN A SPEECH TO OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE GHANA AIR FORCE, THE NUMBER TWO MAN ON THE SMC, LT. GENERAL JOSHUA HAMIDU, SAID THAT THE SMC IS RESOLVED TO PROVIDE "A NEW SENSE OF MISSION AND REALISM FOR THE NATION" FROM NOW UNTIL JULY 1 NEXT YEARAN THE DATE FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. GENERAL HAMIDU CALLED ON THE OFFICERS AND MEN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS RESOLVE IN A POSITIVE MANNER THROUGH LOYALTY TO THE NATION
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AND AVOIDANCE OF ACTS THAT WOULD TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE HIGH COURT WOULD RULE THAT ACHEAMPONG COULD NOT BE PRODUCED BECAUSE OF THE PRE-VENTIVE DETENTION LAW. THE GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION'S PROPOSED AMICUS CURIAE ACTION IS A FULFILLMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S

INTENT TO ARGUE FOR ACHEAMPONG'S RELEASE ON POINTS OF COMMON
LAW. GENERAL HAMIDU'S SPEECH IS A FURTHER INDICATION THAT
THE SMC AND OTHERS IN MILITARY FEEL THAT GHANA NEEDS MORE
DISCIPLINE IN ITS NATIONAL PURPOSE BEFORE RETURN TO
CIVILIAN RULE, AND CERTAINLY BEFORE RETURN TO PARTY POLITICS.
SMITH

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